

Minutes of Nantucket Historical Commission Meeting – August 7th, 2020

Commissioners Present: Tom Montgomery, Georgia Raysman, Mickey Rowland, Angus Macleod, Hillary Rayport, Don DeMichele, and David Silver

Others Present: Holly Backus

Today's Agenda:

- Establishment of a Quorum
- Public Comment
- Update on Streetscape Study
- Walking Tour
- Discussion of report to Select Board
- Update on Survey Recommendations

I. Quorum Present

II. Public Comment: N/A

III. Update on Streetscape Study: SIDEWALKS

Streetscape Engineer: Matthew Bronski

Matthew will give us an update on the report at our next meeting on August 21st.

IV. Walking Tour

Full-day with two tour groups.

Group One: **Rob McNeil, Dave and Ben Shampoo (from tree advisory group), Marty Hilton, Ray Pohl, Penn Austin.**

Group Two: **Holly, Rob, Hillary, Matthew joined by Jason Bridges, Mary Bergman, Brenda McDonald and Stephen Welch (from HDC)**

Both Holly and Hillary conveyed to the Commission that the tour went really well. There was excellent attendance with representatives from various town committees and commissions. It seems like everyone is on-board to learn and understand best practices to preserve streetscape and sidewalks.

Matthew Bronski and Rob were very engaged and spoke in depth about strength of stones, use on concrete, etc. A lot of the portions of the sidewalks are going to be dealt with on a case-by-case scenario. Trees, slope, and curbing are all factors.

We will not present anything until we have a finalized report from Matthew.

V. Discussion of Report to Select Board

Update on Certified Local Government and Memorandum of Understanding with the HDC

-HDC has not been able to get to MOU discussion with a full agenda. We are hoping they will get to that MOU item sooner rather than later.

-Bringing it to the select board's attention at next week's meeting. It is clear why we want to be a GLG and we need to continue to make that clear to the public.

-**CLG**: has not been discussed by HDC yet

-Commission understands that HDC is very busy this time of year, and we hope that they can get the MOU and CLG discussion on their agenda ASAP.

Staff Report: Agenda Item Summary – Holly completed it and will be in the packet.

VI. Update on Survey Recommendations

-Hillary reached out to **MHC (MA Historical Commission)**

-Nantucket is very unusual and is constantly independently surveying buildings. Sconset Trust, PIN and NPT conduct surveys as well. We need to get this information into Form B.

-They want to see them complete (certain threshold of information)

-Takes two years to get them into the database – message for us is that there is a backlog with MACRIS should not discourage us from updating surveys on our end.

-Can we get professionals with credentials to help out? MHC gave feedback on that and said that it might be a good place to start. Chris Skelly will be a good point person for this.

-Mickey: every house on the island needs to be registered and it will take a long time to get all of them into the database. Form B process is one house at a time and might not be most efficient.

Holly: it takes **a lot** to research and catalogue historic structures. We would need to have a plan, funding and a clear directive. We should consult the NHC Advisory Board to see if they have any advice on how to get the survey process underway.

VII. Topics for 8/21/20 Meeting (w/ Select Board)

-Mission Statement needs context so that SB can understand what we have done, what we want to do, and how we plan to achieve our goals for FY 2021.

-Preservation is so important on Nantucket. The SB needs to be updated on these sorts of things.

-Angus: Can we get a SB representative to join some of our meetings (quarterly)?

-Commission wants to hear from the SB on these items.

-Holly: as long as there is support to achieve the goals that have been outlined with an understanding that we can't get them done on a tight timeline (especially with COVID-19). It is not "business as unusual" and we need to be patient.

Hillary: Ask SB what they want us to do.

This is our goal (MOU/CLG) and the clock is ticking. We feel like we aren't making sufficient progress on these goals. We want to strive for achievable goals. We do not want to miss the grant. It's a tight window. Top priority for NHC.

-Also talk about inventory forms. We have a plan on how to make that happen.

Commission feels good about our agenda for 8.21 meeting. No further comments from Commission.

Motion to adjourn: Georgia

Angus: Second

All in favor

~Meeting adjourned ~